Regional Office of S.B.I. in Sindhu Durg/Ratnagiri District

5238. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no regonal office of any public-sector bank in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the regional office of the State Bank of India for these districts is situated in Panaji;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to move the regional office of SBI from Panaji to Sindhudurg or Ratnagiri;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the industrialists in these districts are facing difficulties in finalising the credit by banks; and

(g) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra have their regional offices in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. There is no regional office, however, in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

(b) Regional offices are established having regard to the number of branches, their level of business, geographical contiguity, availability of infrastructural facilities, cost benefit analysis as also the need for supervision and administrative convenience.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) State Bank of India have reported that it will not be economical to shift the regional office from Panaji to Sindhudurg or Ratnagiri.

(f) and (g). No such difficulty has been reported by the State Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

Import of Soda-Ash

5239. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Soda-ash registered with the Director General Technical Development for import during 1989-90;

(b) whether complaints regarding misuse of Open General Licences have come to the notice of the Government during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the imports made under Open General Licences are not misused by importers;

(d) whether the price of Soda-ash which was increased due to shortage has not so far been reduced by the manufacturers despite huge imports; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No import Contract for the import of Soda-ash was registered with DGTD during 1989-90.